

News & Notes from the National Institute of Nursing Research: December 2011

1. Dr. Grady Honored by Arizona State University

On December 6, NINR Director Dr. Patricia A. Grady was honored by Arizona State University's College of Nursing and Health Innovation with a 2011 Discover Award at the College's annual Dream-Discover-Deliver Awards event.

Now in its fourth year, the Dream-Discover-Deliver Awards feature three honorees dedicated to improving healthcare or the health of the American public, each of whom, according to the College, "pursue big dreams, lead innovative changes and achieve their goals."

Dr. Grady was recognized for her embodiment of the College's vision to discover excellence in research and evidence-based healthcare. Dr. Grady gave brief remarks at the event, discussing how NINR-supported research is impacting the quality of care and patient outcomes and future directions for nursing and nursing science.

2. Dr. Elaine Larson to Give 2012 NINR Director's Lecture

Dr. Elaine Larson, Associate Dean for Research and Professor of Pharmaceutical and Therapeutic Research at the Columbia University School of Nursing and Professor of Epidemiology, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, has been selected to give the second NINR Director's Lecture on January 17, 2012. Dr. Larson, a member of the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research, will discuss her globally recognized research in infection prevention and control in a lecture titled "Infection Prevention: An Interdisciplinary Team Approach."

Dr. Larson is a former Dean, Georgetown University School of Nursing. She has been a member of the Board of Directors, National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, and the Report Review Committee, National Academy of Sciences. She is a fellow in the Institute of Medicine and the Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research to Prevent Antimicrobial Resistance at Columbia University and has been Editor of the American Journal of Infection Control since 1995. She has published more than 250 journal articles, four books and a number of book chapters in the areas of infection prevention, epidemiology, and clinical research.

The NINR Director's Lecture is an annual event, designed to bring the nation's top nurse scientists to the NIH campus to share their work and interests with a trans-disciplinary audience. The award was initiated as part of the year-long observation of the Institute's first 25 years at the NIH.

The second NINR Director's Lecture is scheduled to take place from 10:30 -11:30 a.m. on January 17, 2012 in the NIH Clinical Center's Lipsett Amphitheater.

3. NINR Expands 2012 Graduate Partnerships Program

Doctoral students interested in the 2012 NINR Graduate Partnerships Program (GPP) have a new option: they may register for an Individual Partnership instead of applying for an Institutional

Partnership. NINR has expanded the 2012 GPP to allow doctoral students at any school of nursing, not only those supported by an NINR-funded Institutional Research Training (T32) grant, a chance to participate. The NINR GPP is a doctoral fellowship training program that combines the academic environment of a university and the breadth and depth of research at NIH. Financial support and other benefits are provided for up to 5 years.

Students interested in the Individual Partnership are encouraged to contact the NINR IRP Training Director by sending an email with “NINR Graduate Partnership Program” in the subject line to NINRIRPTraining@mail.nih.gov. The email should list the name of their institution, program, and mentor; describe their research interests and research experience to date; and provide their contact information. The NINR IRP Training Director will contact the student to discuss possible GPP opportunities within the NIH Intramural Research Program.

The application/registration period for both options of the NINR 2012 GPP will close on January 31, 2012, at 8 a.m.

Additional information about the 2012 NINR GPP is available at <http://www.ninr.nih.gov/GPP>.

4. Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services Announces Health Care Innovation Challenge

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services Innovation Center is now accepting applications for the Health Care Innovation Challenge. This competitive initiative will award up to \$1 billion in grants to applicants who will implement the most compelling new ideas to deliver better health, improved care and lower costs to people enrolled in Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP, particularly those with the highest health care needs.

The objectives of this initiative are to:

- Engage a broad set of innovation partners to identify and test new care delivery and payment models that originate in the field and that produce better care, better health, and reduced cost through improvement for identified target populations.
- Identify new models of workforce development and deployment and related training and education that support new models either directly or through new infrastructure activities.
- Support innovators who can rapidly deploy care improvement models (within six months of award) through new ventures or expansion of existing efforts to new populations of patients, in conjunction (where possible) with other public and private sector partners.

Awards will range from approximately \$1 million to \$30 million for a three-year period. Applications are open to providers, payers, local government, public-private partnerships and multi-payer collaboratives. Each grantee project will be monitored for measurable improvements in quality of care and savings generated.

The Health Care Innovation Challenge will encourage applicants to include new models of workforce development and deployment that efficiently support their service delivery model proposal. Enhanced infrastructure to support more cost effective system-wide function is also a critical component of health care system transformation, and applicants are encouraged to include this as an element of their proposals.

Application Information:

Potential applicants must submit a letter of intent (LOI) by December 19, 2011 in order to be eligible for a funding award. Please refer to the [funding opportunity announcement](#) for more information on the LOI process. Once ready, LOIs should be submitted at:

<http://innovations.cms.gov/initiatives/innovation-challenge/loi.html>.

All applications must be submitted electronically through www.grants.gov. Applicants are strongly encouraged to use the review criteria information provided in the “Application Review Information” section in the FOA, to help ensure that the proposal adequately addresses all the criteria that will be used in evaluating the proposals.

Note: All prime awardees must provide a Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number in order to be able to register in the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Subaward Reporting System (FSRS) as a prime award user. Further, registration with the Central Contracting Registration (CCR) at www.ccr.gov is also required in order to apply. [Please refer to the FOA](#) for further application information.

Important Dates:

Letter of Intent: December 19, 2011

Applications are due January 27, 2012

Anticipated Award Date: March 30, 2012

For more information on the Health Care Innovation Challenge, visit:

<http://innovations.cms.gov/initiatives/innovation-challenge/>.

5. NIH Welcomes Proposals for 2012 NIH Director’s Transformative Research Projects Program

A major goal of the NIH is to foster bold and creative investigator-initiated research. In pursuit of this goal, the Transformative Research Projects Program has been created under the auspices of the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research to enhance submission and support of exceptionally innovative, high-risk, original and/or unconventional research that has the potential to have a profound impact in clinical, basic or behavioral/social science arenas.

NIH Roadmap Transformative Research Awards provide up to \$25 million total costs per year for a single project. The NIH encourages applications for the Transformative Research Projects Program from scientists representing all disciplines relevant to the NIH mission, including the biological, behavioral, clinical, social, physical, chemical, computational, engineering, and mathematical sciences. Interdisciplinary teams as well as individual investigators with bold ideas are encouraged to apply.

The deadline for submitting Transformative Research Project applications is January 12, 2012. See the complete application instructions in the RFA ([RFA-RM-11-006](#)).

Additional information, including Frequently Asked Questions about the Transformative Research Projects Program, is available at: <http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/T-R01>.

For more information, please contact: T_R01@mail.nih.gov.

6. Dr. Marjana Tomic-Canic to Speak at NIH Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series

NINR-supported researcher Dr. Marjana Tomic-Canic will present “Wizardry of Tissue Repair and Regeneration: A Tale of Skin Cells When Their Magic Is All but Gone” as part of the NIH Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series (WALS) on March 7 at 3 p.m. in the NIH Clinical Center’s Masur Auditorium.

Dr. Tomic-Canic is a professor of Dermatology and a graduate faculty member of the Program in Biomedical Sciences at the University of Miami (UM) Miller School of Medicine. She is also director of the UM Wound Healing and Regenerative Medicine Research Program. Dr. Tomic-Canic received her doctoral and postdoctoral training at the NYU School of Medicine before joining the faculty there. As faculty of the Cornell University Weill Medical College, she directed the Tissue Repair Program at the Hospital for Special Surgery’s Department of Tissue Engineering, Regeneration, and Repair.

Dr. Tomic-Canic’s current research focus is the molecular and cellular mechanisms of wound healing, including human and diabetic models of wound healing, wound genomics analyses, generating primary cells from patients’ wound biopsies, local sustained gene delivery, cellular assays of wound healing, and the histology and immunohistochemistry of skin. She has been continuously funded by the NIH for more than 10 years. Dr. Tomic-Canic is a member of the Society of Investigative Dermatology, the Association of Advanced Wound Care, American Diabetes Association, New York Academy of Sciences, American Association of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Wound Healing Society and serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* and the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*.

7. New Funding Opportunity Announcement: Palliative Care and End-of-Life in People Living with HIV/AIDS (R01)

A new NINR Funding Opportunity Announcement solicits research focused on current palliative care (PC) and end-of-life (EOL) needs in people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA).

Highly active antiretroviral treatment has prolonged the lives of PLWHA leading to increasing numbers of people in the later stages of disease in need of quality PC and EOL support. This is particularly important in populations where HIV/AIDS is most prevalent and mortality from HIV/AIDS is the highest.

The objectives of this research initiative include but are not limited to:

- Distinguish social constructs and other factors which reduce the quality of life for PLWHA due to deficits in palliative and end-of-life care.
- Identify predictors of mortality and prognostic markers in patients with advanced HIV disease and related comorbidities.
- Identify factors which influence decision making with respect to palliative care and end-of-life for PLWHA.
- Explore unique needs by ethno cultural background, age or medically underserved group status.
- Ascertain critical mechanisms required for integration of palliative and end-of-life care into standard medical care for PLWHA.

- Design and implementation of community-based integrative care models which address progressive medical, psychosocial, palliative care and end-of-life needs for HIV/AIDS patients, particularly for the most vulnerable populations of PLWHA.
- Identify best approaches for standard of care in palliative and end-of-life support for PLWHA.
- Conduct comparative effectiveness studies for integrative palliative and end-of-life interventions for PLWHA.

Letter of Intent Receipt Date: February 22, 2012

Application Due Date: March 22, 2012

For more information: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-NR-12-004.html>.

8. 2012 NIH Director's Early Independence Awards

The NIH is now accepting applications for the 2012 [NIH Director's Early Independence Award](#) program. These awards are designed to provide a mechanism for exceptional, early career scientists to omit traditional post-doctoral training, and move into independent research positions at U.S. institutions directly upon completion of their graduate degrees (PhD, MD or equivalent).

Applicants within a year of their terminal research degree/clinical residency may approach an institution official, such as a Department Chair, to request that the institution host them as an Early Independence Awardee. Alternatively, institution officials may actively recruit individuals that they would like to host. The institution is expected to make a serious commitment to each awardee through the provision of separate lab space, access to common equipment and resources, mentoring similar to that provided to assistant professors, etc. The faculty in the host department should regard the Awardee as a colleague, but the institution is not required to provide a tenure-track slot to the awardee.

If the position provided for the Early Independence Awardee is not permanent at the institution, the Early Independence Award is expected to position the awardee to compete successfully for a tenure track or other permanent position at the end of the funding period. The Early Independence Award slots at institutions should be highly regarded and competitively considered by the institution, since each institution (or institution component with a distinct DUNS number) is allowed to submit only up to two applications per competition.

The deadline for submitting Early Independence Award applications is January 30, 2012. Letters of Intent are due December 30, 2011. See the instructions in the RFA ([RFA-RM-11-007](#)).

Additional information, including Frequently Asked Questions about the Early Independence Investigators Award Program is available at: <http://commonfund.nih.gov/earlyindependence> or by emailing earlyindependence@mail.nih.gov.

9. Save the Date: NINR's Fatigue/Sleep Methodologies Boot Camp: July 23-27, 2012

Please save the date this summer for a new offering in the NINR Symptom Research Methodologies Series: the NINR Fatigue/Sleep Methodologies Boot Camp, to be held July 23-27, 2012 on the NIH Campus in Bethesda, Maryland.

The one-week intensive research training course is sponsored by NINR and administered by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences (FAES) as one of the Bio-Trac programs. It is

intended to provide a foundation in fatigue and sleep research methodology for graduate students and faculty. The course will feature lectures by distinguished guest speakers, classroom discussion, and laboratory training. This new boot camp course will cover a number of topics relevant to fatigue and sleep research including fatigue/sleep measurement, treatments, and genetics. The speakers in this course will include nationally and internationally known fatigue and sleep scientists from various institutions including the NIH and universities across the United States.

The course is provided by NINR at no cost. However, attendees are required to pay for housing, food, and transportation expenses incurred during program participation.

Graduate students, faculty, and clinicians who are citizens or permanent U.S. residents may apply. Applicants should demonstrate potential for productive research careers.

The Fatigue/Sleep Boot Camp will be held Monday, July 23, to Friday, July 27, 2012. Classes will begin daily at 8:30 am and adjourn at or before 5:30 pm.

Location:

NIH Campus
Building 60 (The Cloisters)
Bethesda, MD

For more information, visit

<http://www.ninr.nih.gov/Training/TrainingOpportunitiesIntramural/bootcamp.htm> or send an email with "Boot Camp" in the subject line to NINRIRPtraining@mail.nih.gov.

10. Current Funding Opportunity Announcements and Notices

All current NINR Funding Opportunity Announcements, including Requests for Applications (RFAs) and Program Announcements (PAs), as well as Notices of interest from NIH, are available on the NINR website at <http://www.ninr.nih.gov/ResearchAndFunding/DEA/OEP/FundingOpportunities/default.htm>.

These items can also be found in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/index.html>.

11. 76th Meeting of the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research

The open session of the 76th meeting of the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research (NACNR) will take place on January 17, 2012, from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room 6C6, Building 31, C wing, on the campus of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Visitors are welcome to attend.

The NACNR meets three times a year to provide recommendations on the direction and support of the nursing, biomedical, social, and behavioral research that forms the evidence base for nursing practice.

More information about the NACNR is available online at:

<http://www.ninr.nih.gov/AboutNINR/NACNR>.

Information on visiting the NIH campus is available online at:

<http://www.nih.gov/about/visitor/index.htm>.